

Mexico hit by earthquake
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dropped... pg 15

Don't Forget! Fundraising bingo for Aruba's special athletes Saturday, April 9 at the Radisson Casino!

Every 4 years, Aruba's Foundation for the Mentally Challenged sends a delegation of special athletes to the International Summer Games-this year they are "Going for the Gold in Greece!" The games will take place from June 25 to July 4. Aruba's delegation to the Special Olympics are training hard to prepare and working hard to raise the extra funds needed to attend. Each time they have participated they have come home with gold, silver and bronze medals.

The Casino at the Radisson

has dedicated the month of April to raising funds to send them on their way. Fundraising efforts continue tomorrow afternoon with bingo beginning at 1:00 PM. Cards cost \$10 for a card of 4; all proceeds going to Special Olympics Aruba Foundation. There will be cash rewards in increasing value and gift certificates from the Radisson for dinner for two, a weekend stay and a spa treatment at the Larimar Spa. Grand prize includes cash and a \$400 watch from Gold Palace, second place prize is

full data-streaming mobile phone courtesy of Digicel, an official sponsor, and a cash reward provided by PriceWaterhouseCoopers. Financial Services. Red Sail Sport is also providing a morning lunch cruise for 4, there is dinner at La Cabana, and other great prizes. Doors open for bingo ticket sales at noon; there will be 8 games, and drinks and snacks are included.

The Casino has placed a donation box in the Players' Area, in which they encourage their patrons to deposit chips and loose change and are conducting a nightly raffle at 11:00 p.m. for \$100 dollars in non-redeemable chips. Raffle tickets cost \$5 to win 20x that amount in chips, and are sold at the cashier's booth. This will continue all through the month of April.

The Casino at the Radisson encourages all players to come and enjoy their games while helping a worthy cause; your support guarantees you will always be a winner!

Obama Threatens to Veto House GOP Bill in case of shut down

WASHINGTON -- President Obama is threatening to veto a temporary Republican budget measure that would ensure the troops are paid through September and keep the government running for another week, but would not resolve the bitter standoff between Democrats and Republicans.

"This bill is a distraction from the real work that would bring us closer to a reasonable compromise for funding the remainder of fiscal year 2011 and avert a disruptive federal government shutdown that would put the nation's economic recovery in jeopardy," the White House said in a statement.

"La ley del Diamante"



GUADALAJARA, Mexico -- AFP photo shows "La ley del Diamante" (the Diamond Law) bottle of tequila at "Hacienda la Capilla Distillery in Guadalajara, Mexico. This bottle, made with four thousand 35-carat diamond and valued at 3.5 million US dollars, will be touring 35 countries.

Going for the Gold in Greece - June 2011!!

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Japan disaster zone hit by new powerful quake



TOKYO (AFP) – A powerful 7.1-magnitude earthquake late on Thursday hit the same area of Japan that was ravaged by disaster a month ago, seismologists said, prompting a local tsunami alert.

Power was cut to parts of the northeast of the country, much of which is still struggling with the effects of the monster tsunami that roared ashore four weeks ago.

The new quake caused a handful of injuries, national broadcaster NHK said, but there were no reported deaths. The tsunami alert was later cancelled after no deadly wave materialised.

Workers battling to control the stricken Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant on the northeast coast were temporarily ordered to evacuate, plant operator Tokyo Electric Power Co. (TEPCO) said.

The evacuation order came less than 24 hours after they began pumping nitrogen, an inert gas, into reactor No. 1, where engineers were concerned a build-up of hydrogen might react with oxygen to cause an explosion.

A nuclear safety agency official told reporters: "There are no abnormal readings at the Fukushima Daiichi's monitoring posts", adding: "We have not seen any problem... with regard to the injection of nitrogen."

The official said some external power sources used to cool reactor cores had been lost at plants in Onagawa in Miyagi prefecture and at Rokkasho and Higashidori in Aomori prefecture, but at least one emergency source remained operational at each.

The loss of external power sources at Fukushima Daiichi in the March 11 tsunami left reactor cores heating up uncontrollably, resulting in the world's worst nuclear emergency since Chernobyl.

The tremor hit at 11:32 pm local time (1432 GMT) with an offshore epicentre 66 kilometres (40 miles) east of Sendai, a city severely impacted by the March 11 quake and tsunami, according to the US Geological Survey.

Army arrests 100 women in West Bank village



in an area under Israeli control, according to Palestinian security officials.

In Awarta, hundreds of troops entered the village shortly after midnight and imposed a curfew after which they began

rounding up the women, local council head Tayis Awwad told AFP.

They carried out house-to-house searches through the night, he said. Palestinian security sources confirmed the same information.

The women, some elderly, were placed in a camp where the military took their finger-

prints and DNA samples before most of them were released, said the Palestinian sources.

Contacted by AFP, an Israeli military spokesman said a blackout had been placed on information about its operations there.

The Palestinian Authority condemned what spokesman Ghassan Khatib called the "endless campaigns of barbaric acts committed by the Israeli occupation army against the people of Awarta."

The army has been conducting frequent raids on the village for the past four weeks, arresting scores of villagers following last month's murders of five people in the nearby settlement of Itamar.

But Thursday's raid marked the first time they had arrested any women, Awwad said.

Since March 11, the village, just south of Nablus, has been the focus of a massive manhunt after the grisly stabbing of a Jewish couple and their three young children, one of them a baby, as they slept in their beds in Itamar.

Following the murders, troops entered Awarta and imposed a curfew for five straight days, conducting house-to-house searches for the killers, who are believed to be Palestinian.



SAN FERNANDO, Mexico : Forensic personnel unload at the morgue at least 59 bodies of people killed execution-style in San Fernando, Tamaulipas State, Mexico. An estimated 34,200 people have been killed since 2006 when President Felipe Calderon ordered a military crackdown on drug cartels. **AFP PHOTO**

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Crystal & Seaport Casinos welcome the Easter Bunny



The Crystal & Seaport Casinos have just revealed their Easter promotion awarding players great cash prizes with Crystal & Seaport Casinos golden eggs! While the campaign already started in late March it will be ongoing until April 20th, 2011.

Participation is easy, every 10 points accumulated on the casino membership card, entitle players at Crystal & Seaport casino to a campaign-coupon. Once the coupon is filled and dropped into one of the two very visible tombolas, the chance to win \$5,000 in cash becomes a reality. The tombolas are located at the

Crystal & Seaport casinos, as the \$5,000 in cash prizes, is offered at both gaming establishments.

Table players favoring Mini Baccarat, Black Jack, Roulette, Caribbean Stud Poker, Three Card Poker and the Sports Book can also participate in the campaign, as they may receive their campaign-coupon with their accumulated points.

Locals and visitors are invited to become members at the Players Center at Crystal or Seaport Casino, by presenting their ID and just signing up for a membership card. By accumulating points they can then participate in the campaign or redeem their points against great prizes.

The casino Easter campaign will culminate when 7 lucky winners are selected, they will then have the chance to visit the "Easter Tree" at Crystal or Seaport Casino and choose their golden egg, which is loaded with great cash prizes!

The Crystal Casino raffle day will be Tuesday April 19th, 2011, and the Seaport Casino raffle day is Wednesday April 20th, 2011, with winners announced at 8pm.

Find both casinos on face book and become a fan!



Combat Dengue

**Keep around
your house
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Monetary Policy for the month of April of the Aruba Central Bank

ORANJESTAD -- During the meeting of its Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of March 28, 2011, the Centrale Bank van Aruba (CBA) decided to uphold the current reserve requirement rate at 11 percent.

The MPC is keeping a close watch on the level of the net foreign assets, which increased further in February 2011 (+1.2 percent), following a small gain in the previous month. Despite this improvement, a decreasing trend persists in the level of the net foreign assets, which is expected to turn around as the year progresses.

During February 2011, credit demand remained weak, as aggregate outstanding credit at the commercial banks (including purchases of government bonds) remained at the same level as the previous month. This is indicative of the continued weakness in some segments of the domestic economy, especially construction and retail. The 12-month average inflation rate, an indicator of price movements on the longer term, stayed within an acceptable range at 1.2 percent. It is forecasted to reach 2.3 percent in 2011, and 2.8 percent in 2012. Given the re-

newed refining activities in the oil sector as well as a further pick-up in tourism activities, economic activities are expected to expand by 9.0 percent in real terms this year, following contractions of 11.0 percent in 2009 and 3.7 percent in 2010, respectively.

All things considered, the CBA will continue to closely monitor the developments in the economic and monetary fundamentals, in particular with respect to the net foreign assets. The next meeting of the MPC is scheduled for April 28, 2011.

Prime minister warns about over-optimism, cabinet short of cash

THE HAGUE, The Netherlands -- Despite promising economic growth figures of 1.5% this year, the Netherlands still has a long way to go to close the gap caused by the economic crisis, Prime Minister Mark Rutte has warned.

Speaking at a symposium in The Hague, the prime minister said the figures from the government's macro-economic forecasting agency

CPB sounded good but still have to be realised.

In addition, the government wants the economy to grow more strongly to cope with extra spending, such as the cost of healthcare, he said.

'The cabinet's core strategy remains making sure the Netherlands emerges from the crisis in a stronger position,' the prime minister said.



Dominican Republic concerned about increase in malaria deaths

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic -- Dominican health authorities recently launched an education campaign to fight an increase in malaria deaths.

At least six people have died so far this year and an additional 500 cases have been reported, the majority of them in the Caribbean country's southern region, Health Minister Bautista Rojas said.

A total of four malaria deaths were recorded in all of 2010.

Malaria is spread by infected mosquitoes, which breed in stagnant water, and causes flu-like symptoms that can lead to death.

Some 100,000 health workers and volunteers are visiting impoverished communities around the capital of Santo Domingo this week to distribute pamphlets on

how to prevent malaria and other diseases that are more common during the rainy season.

The country also is dealing with an outbreak of cholera, which has infected nearly 700 people and caused seven deaths. A cholera epidemic in neighboring Haiti has killed more than 4,000 people since October.

Loyal Aruba visitors honored



Recently Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA) rep Jonathan Boekhouth had the great pleasure in honoring a group of loyal Aruba visitors with distinctive certificates.

The certificates are a way to say "masha danki" - thank you - for continuously choosing Aruba as a favorite vacation destination.

The titles are as following: 10+ years "Distinguished Visitor" and 20+ years "Goodwill Ambassador."

Those receiving honors were Joseph and Carol Dodd at the Divi Village as "Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba" for their more than 20 consecutive years vacationing here.

Mexico hit by earthquake

MEXICO CITY, Mexico (AFP) -- An earthquake measuring 6.5 struck southern and central Mexico yesterday, but there were no initial reports of damage or casualties, Mexican and US officials said.

The tremor was strong enough to shake buildings and restaurants hundreds of miles away in the capital Mexico City, residents said.

US experts said the quake hit the Veracruz region at 8:11 am some 57 kilometers (35 miles) from the city of Las Choapas. It was 167 kilometers (101 miles) deep.

The US Geological Survey measured the quake at 6.5 on the moment magnitude scale, and said the epicentre was almost 600 kilometres (370 miles) east of the capital.

No warning of a destructive tsunami was generated, the Pa-

cific Tsunami Warning centre said in a statement.

The quake was especially felt in the southern state of Chiapas, which borders on Guatemala, an AFP correspondent reported.

In Mexico City - where memories of the magnitude 8.1 quake of September 19, 1985 that killed between 10,000 and 30,000 people remain fresh - restaurants and school buildings quickly emptied out.

"It was a strong one, and we have activated all the monitoring systems but have had no reports of damage or victims," said Elias Miguel Moreno, in charge of the Civil Protection office for Mexico City.

In Xalapa, the capital city of Veracruz, many people ran out into the streets, but there no early reports of damage or any injuries.

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Indoor vertical garden



French Jean Marc Batard presents his invention a vertical garden which allows elderly people to garden. It can also be used by people who love gardening but cannot bend down at the 39th International Exhibition of Inventions, New Techniques and Products, in Geneva, Switzerland. (AFP PHOTO)

Yearly Kite flying contest of Kiwanis Club of Aruba is on April 17th



As customary Kiwanis Club of Aruba, this year again is organizing a tremendous kite flying contest. The event will take place on April 17 at the field of Cas di Calabas.

Participants can register in three different categories: kids from 3 to 6 years, kids from 7 to 12 years and kids from 13 to 18 years.

Every year there are some

very original and astounding kite creations made by the youngsters.

Kiwanis Club of Aruba has many prizes for the different categories. The judges will give points for the Best Made, most Original, Most Beautiful, and most Colorful Kite. There will also be a prize for the kite which shows most stability after

hoisting.

On that day the kitchen and bar will be well stocked and entertainment is in hands of DJ Genie. There will be a dino jump for the kids between 9:00 a.m and 3:00 p.m.

Kiwanis Club of Aruba makes an appeal to all youngsters to register and participate in this event on Sunday, April 17, 2011



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Sci-Tech

Huge rooftop greenhouse is Montreal's local farm



The young entrepreneur and founding father of Fermes Lufa, Mohamed Hage, checks plants in March 2011. Lufa Farms combines cutting edge technology with heirloom varieties of vegetables to bring surrounding residents that garden-fresh taste any old time of the year. (AFP)

MONTREAL (AFP) — A Montreal company is eagerly awaiting a crop of tomatoes, cucumbers and herbs grown in a vast greenhouse perched on top of an office building, and billed as the world's first rooftop garden farm.

"Our vision is a city of rooftop farms," says the Lufa Farms website of the gardens nestled above the Canadian metropolis, as it mourns the loss of good farm land due to commercial development and urban sprawl.

With the world's population continuing to grow while available arable land falls, the young duo behind Lufa Farms believes greenhouses in the sky could be the way forward to providing fresh food for hungry urban dwellers.

Designed by Mohamed Hage and his partner Kurt Lynn, the greenhouse spreads across 3,000 square metres (32,300 square feet) above Montreal's north end, wafting the scent of fresh thyme and coriander onto streets below.

Lettuce, peppers, zucchini, eggplant, bok choy, celery, or fine herbs such as rosemary, basil and parsley -- the choice of produce is varied and plentiful enough to fill 2,000 grocery carts each week.

The urban farm's first harvest looks promising and is almost entirely pre-sold. Buyers signed up online over the winter to receive baskets of fruits and vegetables at distribution points throughout the city, starting later this month.

Marie-Eve Allaire was the

first to be tempted by this new kind of market.

"I chose a small basket of produce, which is for one person or a couple. It costs 22 dollars per week, so it's no more expensive than what I'd pay at a grocery store for vegetables," she said.

But the produce is fresher as it is sold on location where it is grown, she noted. It is also better for the environment, say the two men behind the business.

"Everything is automated," said Hage. "We can set the temperature, lighting and humidity according to the needs of each group of vegetables." It is all done by computer.

A system has also been set up to collect rainwater to water the plants and help them grow.

It took a significant investment to get off the ground, almost two million dollars to build and stock the greenhouse.

But a return on the investment is only in the long term.

In fact, said Hage, to make a profit the business will have to expand from a single location to include a cluster of greenhouses. "We need more greenhouses, more space," he said.

The company plans to build more greenhouses and is searching for suitable urban space. About 10 per cent of commercial rooftops in Canada could support a greenhouse, Lufa Farms maintains.

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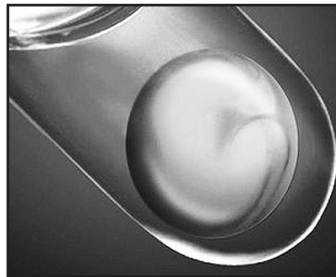
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Scientists grow proto-eyes in the lab



PARIS (AFP) — In a major advance toward regenerative medicine, researchers have for the first time coaxed stem cells from a mammal into becoming an embryonic eye, according to a study released Wednesday.

The results, published in *Nature*, show that growing a complex human organ inside a petri dish -- while still a long way off -- is no longer the stuff of science fiction.

They also point the way to new treatments for diseases that rob people of sight, and even the possibility of one day restoring vision with transplanted retinas generated from a patient's own stem cells, say outside experts.

In laboratory experiments with mice, researchers led by Yoshiki Sasai of the RIKEN Center for Developmental Biology in Kobe, Japan began with pluripotent stem cells, the universal starter kit for virtually every specialised cell in an organism.

Up to now, stem cells have been seen mainly as a potential source of replacement tissue -- such as muscle, liver or heart -- composed of a single type of cell.

Generating a more complex set of cells, or an entire organ, was thought to be dependent on complicated chemical interactions with neighbouring tissues during gestation, and thus impossible outside the natural process of cell division and growth.

But Sasai and colleagues, using new lab techniques, managed to set in motion the transformation of mouse embryonic stem cells into a so-called optic cup, the layered, three-dimensional structures that become the retina in an eye.

Significantly, the cells did the work themselves, without being pushed, pulled or

"pressurised" into any particular shape, the researchers said.

"What we've been able to do is resolve a nearly century-old problem in embryology by showing that retinal precursors have the inherent ability to give rise to the complex structure of the optic cup," Sasai said in a statement.

Starting as a patternless mass, the stem cells organised themselves into the two-walled form that corresponds to the inner and outer layers of the retina during the development of an embryo.

"We are now well on our way to becoming able to generate not only differentiated cell types, but organised tissues" that can be used in regenerative medicine, he said.

The discovery is especially relevant for a group of genetic eye conditions, known as retinitis pigmentosa, that lead to blindness, Sasai added.

The disease attacks vision by damaging the retina, the layer of tissue at the back of the inner eye that converts light images to nerve signals and sends them to the brain.

People with retinitis pigmentosa experience a gradual decline in vision because photoreceptor cells -- composed of rods and cones -- degenerate and die.

"As a step forward in the lead-up to cell replacement or even organ therapy, this is a really significant piece of work," said Richard Lang, director of the visual systems group at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital, after reviewing the study.

"It shows that relatively simple culture conditions can be used to generate whole organ primordia," he said.

Lang said the goal of generating human eye tissue remains distant, but noted that other teams of scientists are making parallel breakthroughs on other types of tissue.

"It feels like it won't be long before the first opportunity for experimental clinical use comes along," he wrote by email.



SWITZERLAND, Geneva: Photo at left: Taiwan's Juang Ying-Shen poses with her invention, high heels with interchangeable components, and at right: France's Laurent Helewa stands on his invention, a toilet kit. Helewa's invention is a foldable and reusable system of a dry, portable disposable toilet designed for nomadic, family or even military use in case there is not a functional toilet nearby, during the opening day of the 39th International Exhibition of Inventions. More than 765 exhibitors from 45 countries are present at one of the World's largest exhibition devoted to innovation from April 6th to 10th in Geneva. (AFP PHOTO)



Health & Living

'Superbug' found in New Delhi water



New Super Bug NDM 1

NEW DELHI, India (AFP) – Urgent global action is needed to prevent the spread of a multi-drug-resistant "superbug" after it was found in water supplies in the Indian capital, doctors said in research published yesterday.

The study in *The Lancet* medical journal said that New Delhi metallo-beta-lactamase 1 (NDM-1) producing bacteria were found in 51 out of 171 samples taken from water pools and rivulets and two out of 50 tap water samples in the city.

NDM-1, first identified in 2009, is a gene that enables some types of bacteria to be highly resistant to almost all antibiotics.

Positive samples included those collected in and around the commercial and business hub of Connaught Place and the Red Fort area.

"International surveillance of resistance, incorporating environmental sampling as well as examination of clinical isolates needs to be established as a priority," the team from Cardiff University in Britain wrote.

Mohammed Shahid, from the Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College and Hospital in India's northern Uttar Pradesh state, added that potential for a wider, international spread of the superbug was "real and should not be ignored."

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), a state health unit, called for calm in the capital city of 16 million residents.

"Hospitals should follow appropriate safety norms," ICMR director-general V. M. Katoch told the Press Trust of India. "If the report applies to India, then it applies to Europe also."

Independent researchers conducted the study in September and October last year, soon after warning that the superbug could be spread by foreign nationals coming to India for medical treatment.

At the time, the Indian government dismissed the re-

search as scaremongering and criticised the naming of the bug after the Indian capital.

But the World Health Organization later called for monitoring after cases of infection were reported around the globe.

In the latest study, the researchers said the presence of NDM-1-producing bacteria had "important implications" for New Delhi residents who were reliant on public water supplies and sanitation.

NDM-1 was found in the bacteria that cause cholera and dysentery, lending weight to the theory that it was not solely a hospital-acquired infection but present in the environment.

"This period includes the monsoon season, when floods and drain overflows are most likely, which potentially disseminates resistant bacteria," the authors said.

"Oral-faecal transmission of bacteria is a problem worldwide, but its potential risk varies with the standards of sanitation.

The authors said it was unclear whether the data could be applied to other Indian cities but there was an "urgent need" for follow-up studies, including in Pakistan and Bangladesh, which have also been identified as sources.



BANGKOK, Thailand : Thai public health officers check plates of meat for radioactivity at a Japanese restaurant in Bangkok on April 7, 2011 following the recent nuclear crisis in Japan due to the March 11 earthquake and tsunami disaster. India on April 6 banned all food imports from Japan, the first country to impose a blanket block over radiation from the stricken nuclear plant in Fukushima prefecture, with several countries, including China, Singapore and the United States, halting imports from some Japanese prefectures after radiation from the stricken nuclear plant was found in raw milk and vegetables.

AFP PHOTO

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- Fibromyalgia
- Anxiety
- Digestive disorders
- Sports injuries
- Soft tissue injuries
- Headaches



During a massage, a certified massage therapist or medical professional manipulates the soft tissues (muscle, connective tissue, tendons, ligaments and skin) of the body using varying degrees of pressure and movement after evaluating the patient's needs. The massage strokes used depend on the injury or condition. Benefits of massage therapy include reduced stress, anxiety and pain, improved circulation, improved levels of alertness, enhanced sleep patterns, release of endorphins (the body's natural painkillers), relaxation and increased oxygen supply. Massage also can reduce heart rate and blood pressure and increase energy and immune system activity.

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BACK THEN

Recently re-discovered editions of the deceased first info newspaper-for-tourists led to the amusement and calls of "Do you remember this one?"

In particular was a column entitled "The Tourist Who":

- Checked out of Manchebo Beach Hotel because her room was too close to

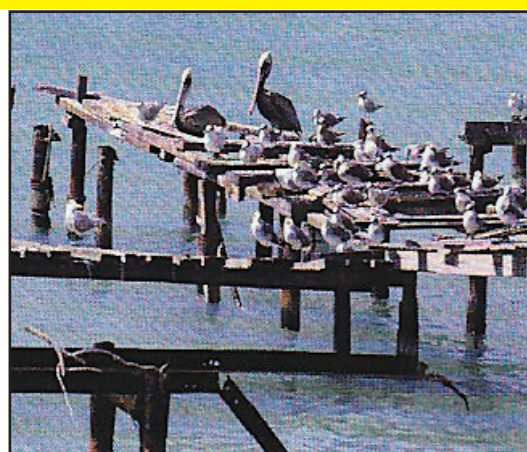


Manchebo Beach ocean front room

the beach.

- Asked a bartender for "what the Arubans drink" and was more than a bit startled when he was served a whiskey/Coke. Those wonderful fruit concoctions are for snowbirds, he was told.

- Asked a local lady for a ride in her car to town and then made her drive around



the parking lot to make sure she was a good driver. ("Once around the parking lot for Sylvia!" became an employees code phrase for a demanding visitor.)

- Insists that the same sea gull is on the same buoy every day in front of the Palm Beach Hotel (now the Rui Palace). We'd like to know, the column continued, how she knows. A true scientific discovery has been made!

- Was so disappointed when she found out that the next night would be a full moon and she wouldn't be able to see it because she had to leave for home. Last time we looked, we thought there was still only one moon visible to all.

Did we miss something?

The "Cuisine Scene" listed restaurants with pertinent information.



would ask if the restaurant was actually floating, waiters, hiding a smile would reply that actually the pier was floating.)

- A "Hot Stuff" column was added for diners from abroad who were not familiar with hot peppers and hot sauces then and which were and are a staple part of the Aruban food chain:

"Piquant" to a Cajun means "it's hot and hurts like a sticker in your tongue. "Pica or pika" to an Aruban means exactly the same thing and is a seasoning sauce made from onion, vinegar, HOT chile peppers, and sometimes papaya and/or other ingredients. It come in all degrees of hotness depending on who makes it.

If you like your food "pica" ask and you shall receive this Aruban hot with your meal. Be sure to ask if it's fresh or you'll get ordinary Tabasco which doesn't come close.

- Another short piece was entitled "Good Morning" and is still appropriate today:

It is part of the culture and the customs of Aruba to precede inquiries with Good Morning, Good Afternoon, Good Evening whether you are speaking with hotel staff, store personnel, and even people you may meet while traveling around the island and need directions. And it, of course, encourages pleasantness in return.

We hope your day is as nice as you are.





In seeking to better serve Aruba's guests

ATSA discusses improved Internet service options with SETAR N.V.



As part of its ongoing project plan, in contributing to Aruba's product improvements as well as in better serving Aruba's extensive community of timeshare owners, the Aruba Timeshare Association (ATSA) recently met with Aruba's leading telecommunications provider SETAR N.V. in discussing its advanced Internet service options. ATSA President Jan van Nes welcomed SETAR Executives Sandra Diaz-Kelly, Harold Semeleer and Ricky Croes for a discussion of how timeshare resorts may better meet guests' expectations in providing a reliable connection to home and work while vacationing in Aruba.

The prevalence of the greater use of iPods, notebooks, Blackberries, roaming cellular phones and laptops among Aruba's guests have

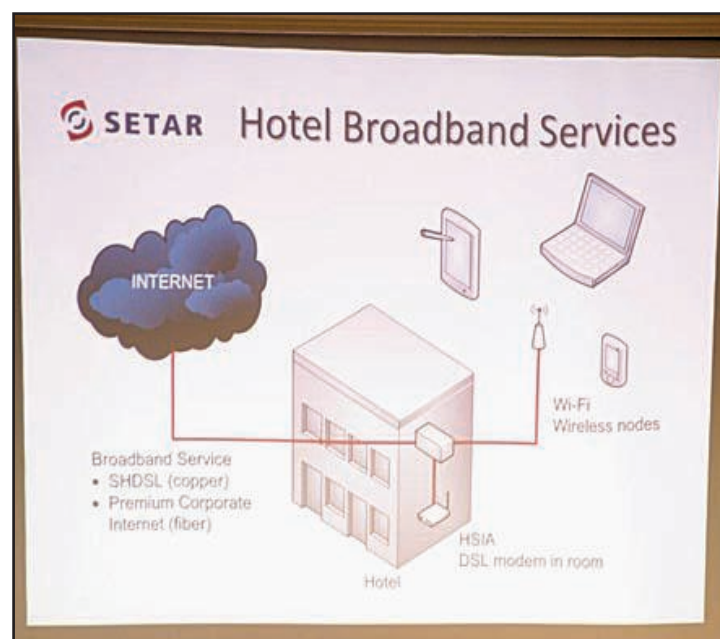
resulted in both ATSA as well as SETAR seeking the similar goal of providing uninterrupted Internet connectivity. SETAR's Business Developer Executive Harold Semeleer explained that greater bandwidth and new fiber lines are helping to meet increasing demand in an environment where reliable WiFi access is now viewed as a necessity among travelers. Among timeshare owners, who enjoy extended vacations on Aruba, the ability to stay connected is often even more important.

The recent meeting with SETAR represented only one way in which ATSA is seeking to improve the guest experience on Aruba. Ongoing projects including the OPC certification training sessions launched by ATSA earlier this year. Roy Mezas, a vet-

eran trainer and company coach, reported on the positive progress of the sessions that will lead to the certification of salespeople who are often the first contact for potential timeshare owners. These off-property contacts remain one of Aruba's main means of introducing visitors to Aruba's quality timeshare product and in generating property tours.

ATSA also received an update from Susan Ruiter, the new owner of Aruba Experience Publications, which produces the hard- and soft-cover Aruba Experience magazines that remain an important and entertaining resource for visitors on all that the island has to offer.

ATSA is an advocate for Aruba's timeshare industry - which counts approximately 3,900 timeshare units -- as



well as for the island's tourism industry, in general. ATSA Treasurer Andy Osbourne recently represented the island during the 31st ARDA Congress held in Or-

lando, Florida on March 27 - 31.

Pictures depict Mr. Semeleer during the recent Q&A session held with ATSA members.



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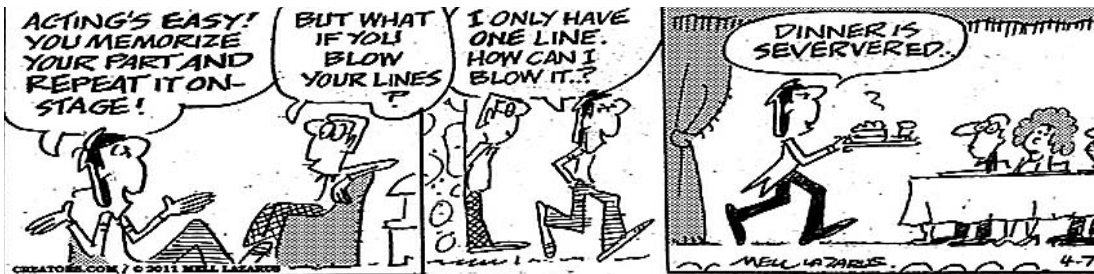
PICKLES



Courtesy of



MOMMA



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CALVIN and HOBBS



CROSSWORD



CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Guitarist's short phrase
5. Kilmer of "The Saint"
8. "___ a girl!"
11. C.S.A.'s Robert (2 wds.)
12. Agenda listing
14. Three, to Luigi
15. Small valley
16. Rum cake
17. Prompter's signal
18. Letter after bee
20. Sagittarius's symbol
22. Bowling spot
25. Agitated mood
26. All-star shortstop Pee Wee
27. "Bravot"
30. Model airplane package
31. Vied for office
32. Female pig
34. Make plump
37. Walk ___ in my shoes (2 wds.)
39. Comic Johnson
40. Rolltops
41. Not al fresco
44. Beatty or Buntline
45. Miss Piggy's pronoun
46. Pierre's head
48. Plus

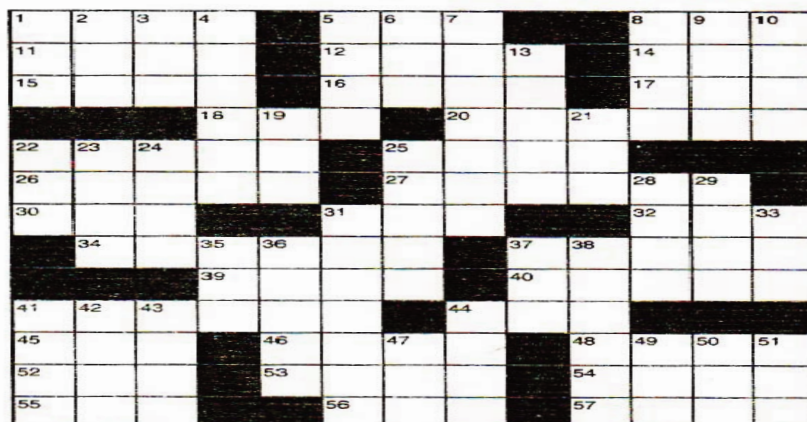
52. Abby's twin
53. Salvage
54. Crazy as a ___
55. Not positive (abbr.)
56. Papa
57. Simon ___

DOWN

1. Standard (abbr.)
2. Sickly
3. Repairman's tab
4. These divide yards
5. Tremor, slangily
6. ___ standstill (2 wds.)
7. Neighbor of Israel
8. Chicken pox

9. Valid
10. Palm reader
13. Singer Lanza
19. Hurricane's center
21. Middle (abbr.)
22. Biblical vessel
23. Explorer Ericson
24. "___ Smile Be Your Umbrella" (2 wds.)
25. Ladd film
28. Markdown tag (2 wds.)
29. Part of an egg
31. Used tire
33. NBA's Unseld
35. Truth, in China
36. Hurries
37. Fruity

38. Awards of honor
41. "___ Old Cowhand" (2 wds.)
42. Not one
43. TV's "___ - Dong School"
44. Require
47. Dam-building gp.
49. Mauna ___
50. Tofu base
51. Switch positions



Courtesy of



April 02 - April 09

Sta.Cruz : "Botica di Serv. Maria ; Pos.Chto. : "Aloe N.V."

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CAS MARIE
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Care Center
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Numbers

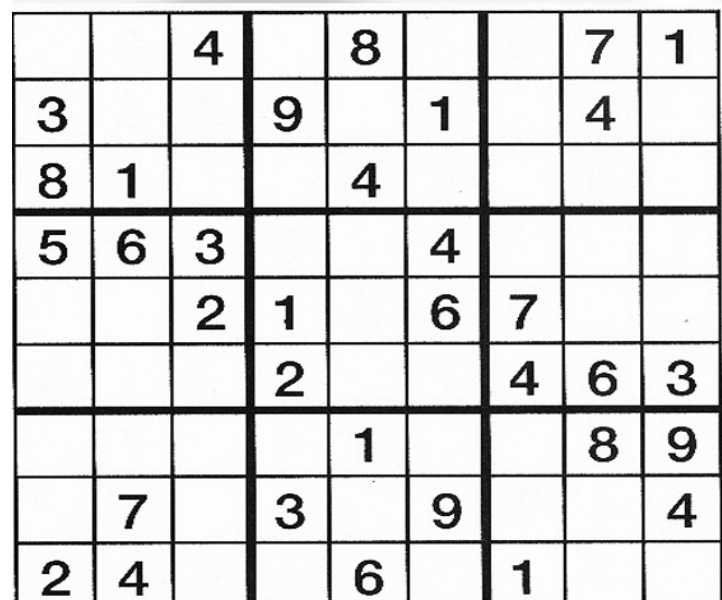
HOSPITAL
Horacio Oduber Hospital
Tel.587-4300

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POLICE HDQS
Telephone 100

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In San Nicolas
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

2	8	1	9	9	8	6	7	2
4	9	9	6	2	8	8	2	1
6	8	2	2	1	4	9	8	9
8	9	7	8	9	2	1	6	2
9	6	2	9	8	1	2	8	7
2	1	8	7	6	2	8	9	9
9	2	6	8	7	9	2	1	8
8	7	9	1	2	6	9	2	8
1	2	8	2	8	9	7	9	6

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Finance

BRIEFS

Ex-Icelandic official jailed for bank collapse trade Origin: Iceland

REYKJAVIK, (AFP) - A Reykjavik court yesterday sentenced a former high ranking official at Iceland's finance ministry to two years in prison for selling stock in the Landsbanki bank just before its 2008 collapse.

Baldur Gudlaugsson "took advantage of his position as a staff member of public office" by selling all of his shares in Landsbanki on September 17 and 18 2008, the Reykjavik district court said in its ruling.

Icelandic media reported that he is the first civil servant to be convicted in relation to the country's banking collapse.

The court deemed Gudlaugsson, who headed a department at the finance ministry, guilty of insider trading. It said the sentence reflected the fact he took advantage of working as a civil servant. Two other major banks went under in October 2008, shattering Iceland's large financial sector and bringing the country's economy to the verge of collapse.

US to pursue Indian tax evaders

WASHINGTON, (AFP) - US tax authorities are probing Indian expatriates who may have hid money offshore in HSBC Bank to evade US taxes, the Justice Department said.

In an expansion of its mounting offensive against overseas tax evasion, the Internal Revenue Service is seeking data on clients of two HSBC India offices in the United States.

The offices allegedly encouraged Indian nationals to open accounts back in their native land, telling them that they could hide the accounts and not pay US taxes on earnings from them, the department said in a statement.

The government has now asked a federal court in San Francisco for authorization to ask HSBC Bank USA for information about those clients, "many of whom are believed by the government to have hidden their accounts from the IRS."

Customers of the two units told US investigators that they were assured "that they could invest in accounts at HSBC India without paying US income tax on interest earned on the accounts, and that HSBC would not report the income earned on the HSBC India accounts to the IRS."

The petition to the San Francisco court arose out of a New Jersey tax fraud indictment.

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Trinidad and Tobago troubled by inflation



View of Port of Spain, the capital - Wrightson Road and the Port.

PORT OF SPAIN, (AFP) - Trinidad and Tobago's Central Bank deputy governor, Shelton Nicholls, admitted that inflation and high food prices remain a problem for the twin island republic, as concerns rise over global energy and commodity costs.

"So far the rate of inflation has been coming down, but it is still problematic," said Nicholls at the Central Bank

Towers. "We will have to see, going forward, how the economy adjusts to the global environment."

"But as a bank, we will use whatever monetary policy tools we have at our disposal to maintain a relatively stable inflation rate. This is our overall objective."

The rate of inflation, from March 2010 to March 2011, is 10.7 percent, down from

11.3 percent in 2010. Trinidad and Tobago's GDP for 2010 stood at \$21.2 billion.

Food inflation, which has been the major driver of headline inflation, slowed to 25.1 percent in the 12 months leading up to February 2011, in contrast to a rate of 30.9 percent in the previous month.

Food Production Minister Vasant Bharath said it was becoming an increasing challenge to achieve food and nutrition security in the wake of global price increases, even as the local agricultural sector rebounds from the negative impact of droughts and floods last year.

"In February 2011, global food prices increased for the eighth consecutive month. It is predicted that food prices will continue to be at a high level," said Bharath.

"But (local) production is once again picking up so we will have to wait and see how production reacts over the next few months."

Mexico's Televisa in 1.6 bn dollar mobile phone deal



Mexican media giant Televisa has agreed to acquire a 50 percent stake in the Iusacell mobile phone company for 1.6 billion dollars

MEXICO CITY (AFP) - Mexican media giant Televisa has agreed to acquire a 50 percent stake in the Iusacell mobile phone company for 1.6 billion dollars, the company said Thursday.

"Televisa will invest 37.5 million dollars in capital and

1.565 billion dollars in Iusacell convertible debt. Once the debt has been converted, Televisa's share in Iusacell will be 50 percent," it said.

Iusacell, the third largest mobile telephone company in Mexico, is owned by Ricardo Salinas Pliego, owner of Azteca TV, the second largest broadcast television network in Mexico.

Televisa, considered the world's largest producer of Spanish language programming, has been looking to break into the mobile telephone market in recent years.

In 2010, it tried to buy 30 percent of Nextel, owned by US-based NII Holdings, for

1.4 billion dollars, but the negotiations failed.

The deal announced Thursday means that the country's two main television networks are joining forces to challenge market leader Telcel, owned by Carlos Slim, the world's richest man.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

ARF	ELF	EMIT
SELF	BOY	LONI
HAIR	SPI	LLANE
EMPIRE	IANS	
SONGS	IVY	MAL
ERIE	ADE	BABE
PAN	STA	DOTED
	HELPED	
HERE	ASIANS	
BARBARIC	EDIT	
ALAI	EMT	SALE
NESS	LPS	MET

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

Managers of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, report that sales are picking up nicely as the global economy begins to recover and those with a bit of disposal income are looking to invest in a sure thing. Gold Coast Directing Manager Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners are barely using the villas or town homes they purchase, but taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and



Input from frequent vacationers who dreamed of their own home in Aruba will eventually be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional pools decks, one of which has been open for a year, the other will be ready for the holidays 2010. They expect the clubhouse to be ready for the community with a workout room and spectacular fa-

service. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, making it easy for some owners to earn their mortgage payments or others to see an immediate return on their investment.

The design of the structures is open, airy and spacious, fully deploying the island environment, with the finest quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options for clients, so buyers can individualize their homes. An elegant and chic standard package is available, or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast managers have inaugurated a number of in-house services and are now negotiating with Interval International to provide a huge international pool for investors to tap for renters either short or long term. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination will also be available. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, babysitting and catering services are also available for community members as well as airport pick-up and drop-off and pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can all be arranged through their home management department.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.



economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community; in this area, the value of properties has only increased over time. It is minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy run Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project; the scope and amenities. We talked to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."



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A must see while on Aruba!

Baby Beach



BABY BEACH, is a shallow, sheltered man-made lagoon located in Seroe Colorado, on the southeast end of the island of Aruba, and is frequented by locals and tourists alike. It is named Baby Beach as the water is so calm it is safe for small children. The snorkeling at this location is great for children or travelers new to snorkeling.

The benefits of this beach include the lack of waves and that nearby waters are shallow enough to stand. The water in the deeper areas, as well as around the rest of Aruba, is cool and refreshing year-round. There is a large Valero oil refinery within

sight of Baby Beach. However, because of the direction of local currents, Baby Beach still has very clean, clear water. In the past, Baby Beach's popularity led it to become somewhat littered. However, clean-up programs have largely restored the beach to a pristine condition.

The water level is generally waist high on the inside, but towards the inlet, it deepens significantly. Marine life includes barracuda, squid, parrot fish, blowfish, angel fish, eels, snakes and a lot of other small fish, although the range of most of these animals is limited to the inlet.





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Actress Demi Moore in Nepal, takes part in CNN's Freedom Project

Google 'to reorganize YouTube channels'



US Internet giant Google is preparing a major overhaul of video sharing website YouTube

NEW YORK (AFP) – US Internet giant Google is preparing a major overhaul of video sharing website YouTube by creating "channels" to compete with broadcast and cable TV, The Wall Street Journal reported.

Under a plan costing as much as \$100 million, the

YouTube homepage will highlight different channels focused on topics like arts and sports, the Journal said, citing people familiar with the matter.

About 20 of the channels will present several hours of original programming produced professionally each

week, while other channels would use content already available on the site.

The launch will be phased over time, starting before the end of the year, and YouTube is hiring help to implement the initiatives.

In recent weeks, YouTube was also said to have held meetings with Hollywood talent agencies, which the newspaper said were more likely to produce deals with directors of production companies than with movie stars and other celebrities.

YouTube, already the third most viewed website in the world, hopes the plan will further boost traffic to the site and take a bite out of the \$70 billion US television advertising market.

Executives of the site told the Journal they want people to "watch YouTube" the same way they "watch TV."



KATHMANDU, Nepal (AFP) -- Hollywood actress Demi Moore (R) and Maiti Nepal Chairperson Anuradha Koirala (L) stand with children at a

rehabilitation centre for victims of human trafficking in Kathmandu on April 7, 2011.

The 48-year-old actress takes part in The CNN's Freedom Project, a worldwide network which works to eliminate trafficking and sex slavery. Moore worked with the biggest Nepalese anti-trafficking NGO whose founder Nuradha Koirala won an online poll to become The CNN's Hero Of The Year.

AFP PHOTO

Mamdouh: the Baghdad tiger on Broadway

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AFP) – The tiger whose death after the US invasion of Iraq inspired a play that is garnering roaring reviews on Broadway is still remembered at the Baghdad zoo, where he was born and raised.

Six months after the March 2003 invasion, when the big cat was shot and killed by a drunken US soldier, the news made international headlines.

Playwright Rajiv Joseph's "Bengal tiger at the Baghdad zoo," which opened last week on Broadway with Robin Williams in the lead role, is based on that incident.

"The tiger was named Mamdouh, and for us at the zoo he was special not only because he was a rare Bengal tiger and the zoo's prized possession, but also because we raised him from birth and remember him as a cub," said Adel Salman Musa, the 54-year-old director of the zoo.

He recalled that in the immediate aftermath of the US invasion hundreds of animals were killed, stolen or died of hunger and thirst in their cages.



Bengal tigers are seen here in their enclosure at the Baghdad zoo.

"But Mamdouh, who was about 14 at the time, was very strong. He survived the hunger and thirst, only to die senselessly a few months later," said Musa.

In life, as in the play, it was a time when the popular jubilation of seeing Iraqi strongman Saddam Hussein overthrown was turning into a nightmare of surging violence.

The invasion had unleashed

an Al-Qaeda insurgency targeting US soldiers, and every day somewhere in Iraq innocent civilians were getting caught in the crossfire and losing lives.

The streets were then patrolled by young American soldiers who did not understand the language of the natives, nor their ways.

Only months ago, WikiLeaks revelations disclosed the US military's own docu-

mented accounts of innocent Iraqis killed by nervous American soldiers.

One victim of the violence was the Bengal tiger, a dwindling species that is internationally protected. He was killed during a drinking party at the zoo, when a US soldier decided to share his food with the cat.

The serviceman reached inside the cage with a piece of meat, and the hungry tiger lunged forward and mauled his arm. Another soldier shot the tiger.

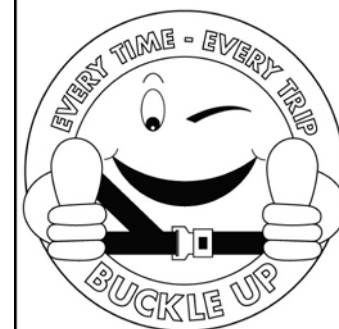
Musa, the head zoo keeper, recalled a day when he had to slaughter the pigs to feed the starving tiger, and some of the other beasts.

On stage, Mamdouh's ghost resurrects as a foul-mouthed tiger witnessing the violence of Baghdad, haunting the soldier who caused his death and pondering the existential mysteries of life.

The New York Times called the play, a "smart, savagely funny and visionary new work of American theater

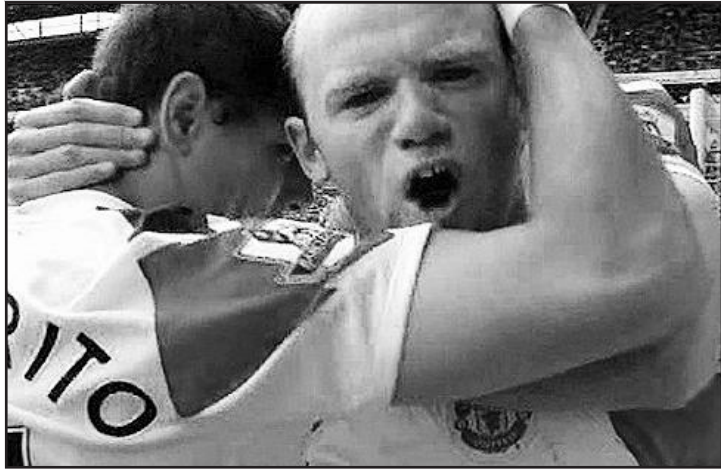
REMEMBER

to



Buckle up

Football: Rooney gets two-match ban for tirade



Aggression: Wayne Rooney glares into the camera before his foul-mouthed outburst that was picked up by the microphones - and easily lip-read

LONDON, England (AFP) - Manchester United star Wayne Rooney has been banned for two matches following his expletive-laden tirade at a television camera, the FA confirmed Thursday.

Rooney will now miss United's upcoming Premier League clash with Fulham as well as their FA Cup semi-final clash with Manchester City on April 16 after an appeal by the club was rejected.

Rooney had surprisingly been charged with using abusive language after he swore into a camera following his hat-trick in the 4-2 win over West Ham at Upton Park last Saturday.

The charge carried a mandatory two-match suspension but United had appealed to have the ban cut to one match at a hearing on Wednesday.

"Rooney had admitted a charge for the use of offensive, insulting and/or abusive language, but claimed that the automatic penalty of two games was clearly excessive," an FA statement said.

"The commission did not accept the claim and Rooney will begin the standard two match suspension with immediate effect."

News of the ban came after Rooney scored the winning goal in Manchester United's 1-0 victory over Chelsea in the Champions League quarter-finals at Stamford Bridge on Wednesday.

Rooney said in a statement he was "gutted" at the outcome.

"I am gutted to miss two matches, one of which is an FA Cup semi-final at Wembley," Rooney said.

"I am not the first player to have sworn on TV and I won't

be the last.

"Unlike others who have been caught swearing on camera, I apologised immediately. And yet I am the only person banned for swearing. That doesn't seem right."

United also expressed dismay at the ban.

"Manchester United is clearly very disappointed with the decision," a club statement said. "The club put forward a very strong case to have the punishment reduced, which was unsuccessful."

United team-mate Rio Ferdinand meanwhile spoke out in defence of Rooney after

Wednesday's Champions League tie, saying it was time to stop "lynching" the England striker.

Ferdinand's comments came as soft drinks giant Coca-Cola confirmed it had dropped Rooney from its advertising campaigns, a deal which had been worth £600,000 (683,000 euros, \$980,000) a year.

"We should follow him as a footballer rather than keep lynching him for a lot of the stuff that goes on," Ferdinand said.

"I wouldn't say he is innocent in a lot of the stuff that has happened but sometimes because of the player he is and who he is the reaction can be over the top."

"Wayne Rooney swearing on TV, as much as I don't condone it, is not front page news."

"There are bigger things going on in the world. There are things happening in Libya and Ivory Coast and we are talking about Wayne Rooney on the front page of newspapers because he swore at a camera."

"I don't condone it but because it is him everyone goes over the top."



BERLIN, Germany (AFP) - The 'B' sample of blood collected during a race in February from banned German cyclist Patrik Sinkewitz has tested positive for the growth hormone. Sinkewitz said on his own website that he was innocent and "ready to prove it".

Growth hormone showed up in tests of a blood sample taken from Sinkewitz at the GP di Lugano on February 27, leading to a provisional ban by the International Cycling Union.

Sinkewitz had already been banned for a year after he tested positive for testosterone on June 8, 2007.

A former Tour of Germany winner, Sinkewitz was sacked by his team T-Mobile during the 2007 Tour after the failed test and he later admitted using blood-booster erythropoietin (EPO) and having undergone blood transfusions



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Boxing: Champion Klitschko rules out Solis rematch



BERLIN, Germany (AFP) - World heavyweight champion Vitali Klitschko said Thursday he has no intention of offering Odlanier Solis a rematch after the Cuban suffered a freak first-round knee injury last month.

"He should worry first about getting fit again," said the 39-year-old WBC champion. "Solis is in the past, my career goes on."

Klitschko picked up the 39th knock-out and 42nd win of his career in Cologne on March 19 when Solis was left on the canvas after tearing knee ligaments as he fell after a punch from the champion at the end of the first round. The 2004 Olympic heavyweight champion has had surgery since and demanded a rematch when he is fit.

"I hope that Vitali is man enough to give me a rematch," said Solis, who has offered to fight for free.

Klitschko has yet to name an opponent for his next fight, but younger brother Wladimir, the IBF and WBO heavyweight champion, is set to fight Britain's WBA champion David Haye on either June 25 or July 2.

AFP/Photo

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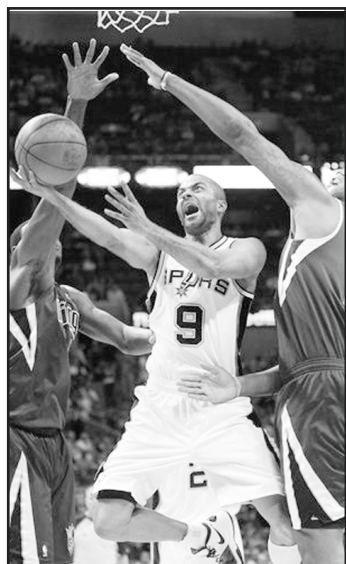
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Spurs win, secure top seed in West



SAN ANTONIO (AFP) - Manu Ginobili scored 25 points and San Antonio secured the top seed for the NBA Western Conference playoffs with a win over

Sacramento on Wednesday and the Los Angeles Lakers' loss to Golden State.

The Spurs defeated Sacramento 124-92, improving their league-leading record to 60-19. The Spurs have won three straight after losing six in a row -- a skid that had them in danger of losing the top seed to the then-surging Lakers.

"We knew we weren't going to lose every single game (the rest of the way)," Ginobili said of the team's morale during the losing streak. "We had a few good games we just couldn't win."

George Hill scored 12 of his 19 points in the third quarter, when San Antonio delivered their best offensive quarter of the season and outscored the Kings by 20 points.

Players open to court-supervised mediation

WASHINGTON (AFP) - NFL players who have sued the league have written to Judge Susan Richard Nelson saying they embrace her recommendation to take part in mediation under the court's auspices, the NFL Players' Association said.

In a letter to Nelson from a lawyer representing the players, "The players expressed their hope that mediation under court oversight will begin immediately," a release from the players' association said Thursday.

The battling parties were in court on Wednesday, when Nelson heard a request from players for a court injunction to lift the lockout imposed by owners.

Nelson said it would be "a couple of weeks" before she ruled on the matter, and urged both sides to return to negotiations.

"Though the injunction to lift the owners' lockout re-

mains under Judge Nelson's consideration, the players took to heart her advice given during Wednesday's hearing that the two sides should not delay to meet," the Players' Association statement said.

Superstar quarterbacks Tom Brady, Peyton Manning and Drew Brees are the highest profile players named as plaintiffs in a class-action anti-trust lawsuit against the league.

The litigation was made possible after the Players Association decertified as a union entitled under US labor law to represent players in negotiations toward a collective contract. It became instead a "trade association".

While the players involved have expressed an interest in mediation, they are also concerned that such mediation could be construed as "collective bargaining" and could therefore compromise their ability to pursue their legal action.

One Bonds charge dropped, defense rests

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - The defense in Barry Bonds' perjury trial rested Wednesday -- without calling any witnesses -- after one of five charges against the famed slugger was dropped at the government's request.

The dropped perjury count dealt with Bonds telling a 2003 grand jury investigating steroids that he had never taken "anything" from his trainer before 2003.

The conversation involved the designer steroids known as "the cream" and "the clear" -- THG and a testosterone preparation.

US District Judge Susan Illston had indicated Tuesday she did not believe there was evidence that Bonds had taken the specific preparations during that time and that she might dismiss it.

Prosecutors argued at that point that the "anything" could refer to drugs other than those specific designer steroids. But the judge seemed skeptical, and on Wednesday, prosecutors dismissed the charge.

That leaves Bonds facing three counts of lying under oath and one count of obstruction of justice. All are a result of Bonds' 2003 testimony to the grand jury.

Prosecutors say the US home run king lied when he denied knowingly taking performance-enhancing drugs, and when he said that no one but his physician had ever injected him.

In closing arguments, which begin Thursday, the injection issue may prove to be the most difficult for the defense team.

Bonds' ex-personal shopper and childhood friend, Kathy Hoskins, told jurors she witnessed Bonds' trainer inject him in the navel in

2002.

She was the only witness to give an eyewitness account of Bonds' alleged drug use.

Defense lawyers have implied Hoskins was lying to back up her brother, Bonds' ex-business manager, who testified the former San Francisco Giants star was using steroids.

But on the stand, Hoskins tearfully insisted that she was only involved in the case because her brother, who had a bitter falling out with Bonds, had told government agents she saw the injection.

"He threw me under the bus and that's why I'm here," she said, crying.

If jurors believe Hoskins' account, they will have to find Bonds guilty of lying about never being injected by anyone other than his doctor.

The trainer, Greg Anderson, has been behind bars since the trial began for refusing to testify. After the defense rested Wednesday, his attorney requested that the judge release Anderson.

Prosecutors asked that he remain in custody.



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Pyeongchang calls for 'historic choice' from IOC



LONDON (AFP) - Pyeongchang Olympic bid chiefs on Thursday called on the International Olympic Committee to make an "historic" choice in awarding the 2018 winter Olympic Games

Nishioka hurt in Twins loss to Yankees

NEW YORK (AFP) - Minnesota's heralded Japanese import Tsuyoshi Nishioka left the Twins' 4-3 loss to the New York Yankees Thursday with an apparent left leg injury after Nick Swisher slid into him at second base.

Nishioka had to be helped off the field in the seventh inning, barely putting weight on his leg.

Swisher slid well to the left of the bag as Nishioka tried to turn the double play.

The Twins signed Nishioka to a three-year, \$9.25 million deal in December. On Thursday he was 0 for 4 with a strikeout to drop his average to .208.

to the South Korean resort.

Pyeongchang lost out to Vancouver for the 2010 event and to Russia's Sochi for 2014, and this time is locked in battle with Munich, Germany and the French alpine city of Annecy.

The final vote will be held in the South African city of Durban on July 6.

Bid chief Cho Yang-Ho on Thursday highlighted the fact that Europe has dominated the winter Games landscape for decades, compared to Asia.

Cho, who is also the president of Korea Air, believes choosing South Korea would give a huge boost to winter sport in a region which boasts 650 million young people.

"This is an historic choice and an historic chance for the Olympic movement," Cho said here at the SportAccord convention.

"We want to give 650 million young people in new markets the opportunity and the access to enjoy winter sport."

Cho exhibited a giant globe indicating where previous editions of the winter Games have been held since their creation in 1924.

Thus far, only two editions have been held in Asia, both in Japan. Sapporo hosted the Games in 1972 and Nagano was the host in 1998. European cities or resorts have, in comparison, virtually monopolised the Games.

McIlroy ready for another try as Major leader

AUGUSTA (AFP) - Masters leader Rory McIlroy suffered one of the worst collapses by a first-round pace-setter in golf history the last time he sat atop the scoreboard after 18 holes in a major championship.

But the memories of that agonizing day last July at the British Open, when he followed an opening nine-under 63 at St. Andrews with a horrifying 80 in blustery winds, will inspire him, not haunt him, on Friday at Augusta National.

"It will be a massive help to me," McIlroy said. "I will be thinking about it and I'll be thinking about how I can do things better tomorrow than I did that day in St. Andrews."

The 21-year-old Ulsterman, who shared third in each of the past two majors, fired a bogey-free seven-under par 65 in Thursday's opening round to seize the lead of the 75th Masters by three strokes.

McIlroy said he learned his lessons from being unable to contain the damage when the winds swirled in off the North Sea nine months ago.

"Obviously at the time I was very disappointed to come off the course and shoot 80 after shooting 63, but looking back on it, it was a very valuable lesson in my development as a golfer," McIlroy said.

"It's possible that I can go out and shoot another 65, but I know that it's also very likely that I'm not going to do that. So if I do find myself in a bit of trouble, I'm going to have to stick in there, grind it out, and that's something that I feel as if I learned to do at St. Andrews."

"Even though I didn't do it on that Friday, I feel like shooting a score like that, you should really never make that



mistake again. I feel as if I'm playing really well, so hopefully it doesn't happen and I can go out and shoot another good score."

But McIlroy is willing to face down the frightful notion of a poor start in round two at Augusta National.

"That second day at St. Andrews, hopefully it doesn't happen," McIlroy said. "But say I'm 2-over after three tomorrow, knowing that it's OK, it's fine, you're still in the golf tournament, there are still 50-whatever holes there are to play, just being patient and realizing that you don't need to play spectacular golf for 72 holes to win."

"You just have to hang in there, grind it out and stay patient."

The Northern Ireland prodigy shared third at the British Open despite stumbling after his first round matched the lowest score in major golf history, then backed it up with a share of third at the PGA Champi-

onship, coming even closer to his first major title.

"I was there. I was leading with four holes to go in a major," McIlroy said. "If I get in that same position this week, I hope I will be able to handle it a little better."

McIlroy would be the second-youngest Masters champion, only a few months older than Tiger Woods when he won the 1997 title by a record 12 shots. This is only McIlroy's ninth career major and third Masters start.

"I've shot good enough rounds in majors and I've played well enough to believe in myself and believe that I can win a major," McIlroy said. "I'm still relatively inexperienced but I feel as if I'm a pretty quick learner."

McIlroy, who won his first US PGA title last year in Charlotte and made his Ryder Cup debut in last year's European victory, saw many similarities in his Masters start and his first round last year at St. Andrews.

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